

AI Foundation Model Transparency Act

Foundation models are artificial intelligence models that are trained on broad data, generally use self-supervision, contain billions of parameters, and are applicable across a wide range of contexts or applications—foundation models are the bedrock of the generative AI websites and chat bots that have taken the world by storm this past year.

Widespread public use of foundation models has also led to countless instances where the public is being presented with inaccurate, imprecise, or biased information. This can happen for several reasons, but often is primarily due to limitations or biases in the data the model was trained on, or a model not being trained to respond to a certain input. This is particularly glaring in cases of racial or gendered bias—AI has been known to perform [disproportionately worse](#) at identifying images or responding to queries related to Black people and women than it does for white people and men. The potential to perpetuate biases or dispense inaccurate information in high-impact use cases, such as health-related AI inferences, loan granting, housing approval, or predictive policing is especially concerning.

Additionally, there has been an increase in lawsuits and public concern about copyright infringement as a result of copyright holders seeing close replications of their protected work recreated by generative AI models. This includes multiple court cases levied against companies and models like [Clearview AI](#), [Microsoft](#), [GitHub](#), [OpenAI](#), [Stability AI](#), and more.

Accordingly, foundation model transparency has become increasingly necessary. Without compromising the intellectual property rights or trade secrets of those who develop and deploy foundation models, people who use foundation models should be equipped with the information necessary to understand how the models they are using are trained, how to look out for biases in results, and copyright violation risk.

Consequently, the AI Foundation Model Transparency Act would:

- Call on the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), in consultation with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Copyright Office, and the Office of Science and Technology Policy, to set transparency standards for foundation model deployers, by asking them to make certain information publicly available to consumers.
- Call for companies to provide consumers and the FTC with information on the model's training data, model training mechanisms, and whether user data is collected in inference
- Protect small deployers and researchers, while calling for responsible transparency practices from our highest-impact foundation models.

This bill would take the first step towards increasing the explainability of these AI foundation models and enabling consumers to make informed decisions about the models they are using. This includes increasing awareness of risks that accompany use of the model and potential copyright concerns.

If you have any questions about the AI Foundation Model Transparency Act to bring much-needed transparency standards to foundation models, please reach out to Grace Brightbill with Rep. Beyer at grace.brightbill@mail.house.gov.